

**PARENTING PLAN
COURT-CREATED**

CASE NUMBER:
(assigned by Clerk of Court)

1. The best interests of the parents' minor child(ren) will be maintained through the ongoing involvement of both the Mother and the Father with the child(ren).
2. The best interests of the parents' minor child(ren) also will be maintained by ensuring regular and continuous school attendance and progress for school-age child(ren) of the parties.
3. Both parents should remain active and involved in parenting the child(ren).
4. The main reason for this Plan is to establish custody, parenting time, visitation, and other access arrangements, to determine parenting time to be spent with the Mother and Father, and to decide how to deal with any future disagreements between the Mother and Father about this Plan.
5. The parents should understand that the needs of the child(ren) may change as the child(ren) get(s) older and they should interpret and apply this Plan in a way that best serves any changing needs of the child(ren).
6. The _____ (custodial parent) shall have legal custody of the
(mother or father)
child(ren) and, as such, shall have the legal responsibility and authority to make final decisions concerning the parenting functions necessary to raising the child(ren).
7. The principal place of residence (physical custody) of the child(ren) shall be with the _____, (custodial parent) subject to the terms of
(mother or father)
this Plan.
8. The noncustodial parent shall have parenting time with the child(ren) as follows:

A. **Weekends:** Every other weekend from _____ Friday to _____
(beginning time)
_____ Sunday, beginning: _____.
(ending time) (month, day, and year that weekend parenting time is to begin)

B. **Weekdays:** On _____ each week from _____
(day of the week) (beginning time)
to _____.
(ending time)

C. **Holidays:**

1. In odd-numbered years, holiday parenting time with the child(ren) for the following holidays: Easter, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving, and New Year's Day.
2. In even-numbered years, holiday parenting time with the child(ren) for the following holidays: Memorial Day Weekend, Labor Day Weekend, Christmas, and the child(ren)'s birthday(s).

Holidays shall be defined as follows:

(a) **Easter:** This holiday shall include that period of time during which the child(ren) is/are excused from school before the Easter holiday, including Easter Sunday, and shall begin at _____ on
(beginning time)
the day the child(ren) is/are released from school and end at _____
(ending time)
on the day before the child(ren) return to school.

(b) **Memorial Day Weekend:** This holiday shall include only that weekend when Memorial Day is nationally recognized and shall begin at _____ on Friday and end at
(beginning time)
_____ on Monday, Memorial Day.
(ending time)

(c) **Fourth of July:** This holiday shall begin on July 4th at _____ and end on July 5th at _____.
(beginning time) (ending time)

(d) **Labor Day Weekend:** This holiday shall include only that weekend on which Labor Day is nationally recognized and shall begin at _____ on Friday and end at _____ on
(beginning time) (ending time)
Monday, Labor Day.

(e) **Thanksgiving:** This holiday shall be defined as that period of time

during which the child(ren) is/are excused from school for the Thanksgiving holiday, including Thanksgiving Day, and shall begin

at _____ on the day the child(ren) is/are released
(beginning time)
from school and end at _____ on the day before the
(ending time)
child(ren) return(s) to school.

(f) **Christmas:** This holiday period shall be defined as that time during which the child(ren) is/are excused from school for the Christmas holiday and shall begin at _____ on the day the
(beginning time)
child(ren) is/are released from school and end at _____
(ending time)
on December 27.

(g) **New Year's Day:** This holiday period shall begin at _____ on December 27 and end at
(beginning time)
_____ on the day before school is to begin.
(ending time)

(h) **The child(ren)'s birthday(s):** This shall be the actual birthday(s) of the child(ren), and shall begin at _____ and shall
(beginning time)
end at _____.
(ending time)

9. **Father's/Mother's Day:** Every year the Father shall have the child(ren) on Father's Day and the Mother shall have the child(ren) on Mother's Day. This holiday shall begin at _____ and end at
(beginning time)
_____ on the Sunday on which this holiday is nationally
(ending time)
observed.

10. **Parents' birthdays:** Every year the Father shall have the child(ren) on his birthday and the Mother shall have the child(ren) on her birthday. This parenting time shall begin at _____ and end at
(beginning time)
_____ on the birthday.
(ending time)

11. **Summer:** The noncustodial parent shall have, beginning the summer of _____, _____ continuous weeks during the
(beginning year) (number of weeks)
child(ren)'s school summer vacation. During this period of time, the custodial parent is entitled to the same parenting time the noncustodial parent would have if the child(ren) was/were with the noncustodial parent; provided, however, that each parent is to have a period of at least ten (10) continuous days during the summer that will be uninterrupted by parenting

time with the other parent. The noncustodial parent is to notify the custodial parent, in writing, not later than May 1 of each calendar year of

the dates he/she will exercise his/her summer parenting time and must also provide the general location and schedule of where the parenting time will take place.

12. **Telephone:** The noncustodial parent shall have telephone parenting time with the child(ren) on _____ each week, between

(day of the week)
_____ and _____ for not less than
(beginning time) (ending time)
_____ minutes.
(number of minutes)

13. **Transition Plan:** The noncustodial parent shall pick up the child(ren) from the custodial parent at the beginning of each parenting time period and return the child(ren) to the custodial parent at the end of each parenting time period.

14. **Miscellaneous Provisions:**

- A. **Holidays Take Priority:** Holiday parenting time takes priority over the regular weekend parenting time schedule. The regular weekend parenting time schedule shall begin again on the weekend following the holiday schedule and continue after that as provided in this Plan. As an example, suppose the noncustodial parent's regular weekend parenting time with the child(ren) falls during the Easter holiday in a year when the child(ren) is/are with the custodial parent for Easter. Because Easter is a holiday, it takes priority. Beginning the first weekend following the holiday, regular alternating weekend visitation begins again with the noncustodial parent having the first weekend following the holiday.
- B. **Temporary Changes.** The parents can temporarily change the terms of this Plan as long as they both agree to it.
- C. **Being on Time.** Both parents understand that they have the responsibility to be on time. If either parent will be late for some reason, or will be unable to either visit with the child(ren) on time or provide visitation with the child(ren) on time, such parent shall notify the other parent as soon as possible of the delay. Both parents understand that fifteen (15) minutes is a reasonable time for a parent to wait in order to pick up or return the child(ren).
- D. **Scheduling Activities.** One parent may not plan or schedule activities during the parenting time of the other parent without reasonable notice to and consent of the other parent.

- E. Child(ren)'s Events.** Both parents shall inform each other, reasonably in advance, of all events where a parent may participate in the child(ren)'s activities or events (i.e., school plays, athletic events, teacher conferences, music recitals, and the like). Notice shall be provided in such a way that the other parent has the maximum opportunity to attend that activity or event.
- F. Permanent Changes.** This Plan may be changed by mutual, written agreement of the parents. Both parents understand that any permanent changes must be approved by the Court to be binding and enforceable.

PARENTING RESPONSIBILITIES AND COOPERATION

The parent with legal and physical custody of the child(ren), (custodial parent) shall have the final say in the choices regarding the child(ren)'s education, religious upbringing and medical needs. Recognizing, however that it is important that both parents participate and cooperate with each other to bring up the child(ren) in a loving, stable environment, the custodial parent shall, in an effort to encourage this environment, notify the noncustodial parent at a meaningful time in advance of any decision regarding enrollment in school, the beginning of participation in religious activities, and the beginning of health care involving the child(ren) in order to learn the noncustodial parent's wishes in these matters. The parents shall freely discuss these three areas with one another in an effort to reach an agreement on these issues. In the event the parents cannot agree, the custodial parent shall have the final voice in these matters.

The child(ren)'s best interests require the utmost cooperation between the parents. To this end, neither parent shall talk badly about or in any way be negative about the other parent in front of the child(ren) or in any activity or communication involving the child(ren). Neither parent will ask about the other's personal affairs through the child(ren). Each parent shall cooperate with the other, to the fullest extent necessary, in order to encourage a safe, secure, and loving environment for the child(ren).

The names of both parents shall appear on all school, governmental, law enforcement, medical and health-related records, and both parents shall be provided access to all teachers, government officials and doctors.

REMEDIATION PROCESS REGARDING FUTURE MODIFICATIONS TO THIS PARENTING PLAN

In the event one or both of the parties wish to change the terms of this Plan in the future and the parties are unable to agree on the terms of such change, the parties shall attempt to mediate their disagreements by talking to a third person or persons who may be able to help the parties come to an agreement. This third person or persons need

not be formally trained in mediation, although the parties are encouraged to talk to a trained mediator if possible.

**NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS IN THE EVENT OF CHANGE
OF ONE OF THE PARENT'S RESIDENCE**

In the event one of the parents plans to change his/her residence, that parent shall notify the other parent of such change of residence. If one of the parents is living or moving to an undisclosed location because of safety concerns, the address or return address shall only include the county and state.